

officers and employees, the adoption of a constitution and bylaws, not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter and the doings of such acts as may be necessary for such purpose.

(Pub. L. 85-761, § 2, Aug. 26, 1958, 72 Stat. 855.)

§ 823. Principles and objects of corporation

(a) The principles underlying the corporation are patriotic allegiance to the United States of America, fidelity to its Constitution and laws, the security of civil liberty, and the permanence of free institutions.

(b) The objects of the corporation are educational, fraternal, historical, and patriotic, perpetuating the principles of liberty and justice which have created the United States of America, by (1) commemorating all national patriotic holidays; (2) maintaining true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; (3) preserving and strengthening comradeship and patriotism amongst its members; (4) assisting, comforting, and aiding all needy and distressed members and their dependents; (5) giving needed hospital and service work through its Department of Veterans Affairs certified service officers; (6) cooperating with other civic and patriotic organizations having worthy objectives; (7) keeping alive the achievements and memory of our country's founders; (8) ever cherishing the memory of General George Washington, who founded the Purple Heart at his headquarters at Newburgh-on-the-Hudson, on August 7, 1782; (9) influencing and teaching our citizenry, in a loyal appreciation of the heritages of American citizenship, with its responsibilities and privileges; and (10) preserving and defending the United States of America from all enemies whomsoever.

(Pub. L. 85-761, § 3, Aug. 26, 1958, 72 Stat. 856; Pub. L. 102-54, § 13(n)(3), June 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 278.)

AMENDMENTS

1991—Subsec. (b)(5). Pub. L. 102-54 substituted “Department of Veterans Affairs” for “Veterans’ Administration”.

§ 824. Powers of corporation

The corporation shall have power—

- (1) to have succession by its corporate name;
- (2) to sue and be sued, complain and defend in any court of competent jurisdiction;
- (3) to adopt, use and alter a corporate seal;
- (4) to charge and collect membership dues;
- (5) to adopt, amend, and alter a constitution and bylaws, not inconsistent with the laws of the United States or any State in which the corporation is to operate, for the management of its property and the regulation of its affairs;
- (6) to contract and be contracted with;
- (7) to take lease, gift, purchase, grant, devise, or bequest from any private corporation, association, partnership, firm or individual and to hold any property, real, personal or mixed, necessary or convenient for attaining the object and carrying into effect the purposes of the corporation, subject, however, to applicable provisions of law of any State (A)

governing the amount or kind of property which may be held, or (B) otherwise limiting or controlling the ownership of property by, a corporation operating in such State;

(8) to transfer, convey, lease, sublease, encumber, and otherwise alienate real, personal or mixed property; and

(9) to borrow money for the purposes of the corporation, issue bonds therefor, and secure the same by mortgage, deed of trust, pledge, or otherwise, subject in every case to all applicable provisions of Federal and State laws.

(Pub. L. 85-761, § 4, Aug. 26, 1958, 72 Stat. 856.)

§ 825. Principal office; territorial scope of activities; agent for service of process

(a) The principal office of the corporation shall be located in Washington, District of Columbia, or in any such other place as may later be determined by the national executive board, but the activities of the corporation shall not be confined to that place and may be conducted throughout the various States, Territories, and possessions of the United States.

(b) The corporation shall have in the District of Columbia at all times a designated agent authorized to accept service of process for the corporation; and notice to or service upon such agent, or mailed to the business address of such agent, shall be deemed notice to or service upon the corporation.

(Pub. L. 85-761, § 5, Aug. 26, 1958, 72 Stat. 856.)

§ 826. Membership

(a) Eligibility

All persons of good moral character who are, have been, or may become members of the Armed Forces of the United States or any foreign country of whatever rank, who have received or who may hereafter receive the Purple Heart for wounds received during military or naval combat against an armed enemy of the United States, shall be eligible for active membership in the corporation.

(b) Extension of eligibility to parents and descendants

The corporation shall have the power, moreover, to extend eligibility for membership, as associate members; to parents and lineal descendants of the described in subsection (a) of this section under such conditions and upon such terms as the corporation may specify in its constitution and bylaws.

(c) Voting rights

Each member of the corporation, other than associate members, shall have the right to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote at all meetings of the members of the corporation.

(d) Exception

Notwithstanding the limitations set out in subsections (a) and (b) of this section, any member in good standing of the corporate body referred to in section 836 of this title shall be admitted on request to comparable membership in the corporation created by this chapter.

(Pub. L. 85-761, § 6, Aug. 26, 1958, 72 Stat. 857.)